

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 03 September 2025, commencing at 9.02am

Members Present: The Mayor (Grant Smith) (in the Chair) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Members Present Online: Councillor Billy Meehan.

Apologies: Councillor Billy Meehan (early departure).

Councillor Orphée Mickalad was not present when the meeting resumed at 10.46am. He entered the meeting again at 10.48am after the consideration of clause 134-25. He was not present for clause 134-25.

Councillor Billy Meehan was not present when the meeting resumed at 1.33pm. He was not present for clauses 141-25 to 150-25.

Councillor Roly Fitzgerald left the meeting at 2.40pm during consideration of clause 142-25, and returned to the meeting at 2.43pm after clause 142-25. He left the meeting at 3.24pm at the end of the public part of the meeting. He was not present for clauses 142-25, and 148-25 to 150-25.

Councillor Mark Arnott left the meeting at 3.17pm during consideration of clause 145-25 and returned to the meeting at 3.20pm after clause 145-25. He was not present for clause 145-25.

Councillor Lew Findlay left the meeting at 4.44pm. He was not present for clauses 148-25 to 150-25.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb opened the meeting with karakia.

131-25 Apologies

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the apologies.

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Clause 131-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor William Wood declared a conflict in Item 26 Purchase Opportunity – Mobile Stage (clause 150-25) and took no part in discussion or debate.

Tribute: Steve Stannard

The Mayor made a tribute to Steve Stannard, Civic Award recipient, founding head of Massey University's School of Sport and Exercise Science and local cycling advocate, who passed away on 30 August 2025.

132-25

Public Comment

Amy Walters, Greg Sawyer, Georgia Wheeler and Connor Taylor, representing Kiwi Canoe Polo, made public comment in support of Item 9 Notice of Motion: Kiwi Canoe Polo Next Stage Support.

Rami Al-Jiab made public comment in support of Item 6 Petition - Call for an Immediate, Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and an Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the public comments.

Clause 132-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

133-25

Petition - Call for an Immediate, Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and an Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy

Presentation, by Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab, Vivienne Porzsolt, Thyme4Action and Hazim Arafeh, Former President of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand.

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The Mayor moved a motion in support of a ceasefire in Gaza, and offered to donate \$2,000 from the Mayoral Relief Fund to the Red Cross.

Councillor Bowen moved a motion to review the Council's procurement and investment policies to avoid contracts with companies complicit with breaches of international law. A report with suggested changes and the implications of any changes to these policies would be brought back to Council.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the petition for information.

Clause 133-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

2. That Council will support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, with the Mayor urgently writing to the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister advocating for such. The Mayoral Relief Fund will also donate \$2,000 to Red Cross International towards urgent humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

Clause 133-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

RESOLVED

3. That Council amend our procurement and investment policies to avoid contracts with companies complicit in grave breaches of international law, including those profiting from illegal Israeli settlements and occupation — consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2334, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and recent UN Special Rapporteur findings; noting that if necessary Council may develop a practical transition plan for policy implementation.

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Clause 133-25 above was carried 13 votes to 2, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Orphée Mickalad and William Wood.

Abstained:

Councillor Billy Meehan.

The meeting adjourned at 10.22am.

The meeting resumed at 10.46am.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad was not present when the meeting resumed.

134-25 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting of 6 August 2025 Part I Public and Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 134-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

Councillor Patrick Handcock.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad entered the meeting again at 10.48am.

135-25 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting of 13 August 2025 Part I Public and Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 135-25 above was carried 15 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

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Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb.

136-25 Officer Response to Notice of Motion - Next stage support to Manawatū Kiwi Canoe Polo Club to carry out a Feasibility Study/Business Case and Notice of Motion: Kiwi Canoe Polo Next Stage Support

Memorandum, presented by Ann-Marie Mori, Policy Analyst.
Notice of Motion, presented by Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

An amendment was passed referring the request to the Annual Budget 2026/27 to ensure all community funding requests are considered together.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the memo titled 'Response to Notice of Motion - Next stage support to Manawatū Kiwi Canoe Polo Club to carry out a Feasibility Study/Business Case'.

Clause 136-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Leonie Hapeta, seconded William Wood.

RESOLVED

2. That Council refer to the Annual Budget 2026/27 consideration of a grant of \$10,000 to Kiwi Canoe Polo for the purpose of developing a combined feasibility study and business case for a new Canoe Polo facility, to inform the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan.

Clause 136-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Patrick Handcock.

Note:

On an amendment: 'That Council, **refer to the Annual Budget 2026/27 consideration of a grant of \$10,000** to Kiwi Canoe Polo for the purpose of developing a combined feasibility study and business case for a new Canoe Polo facility, to inform the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan', the motion was carried 9 votes to 7, the voting being as follows:

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For:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan and William Wood.

REPORTS

137-25

Fitzherbert Park - Proposal to Grant an Easement on Reserve Land to Powerco

Report, presented by Perene Green, Property Officer.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve notifying the public of the proposal to grant an easement at Fitzherbert Park, 272 Fitzherbert Avenue Palmerston North, to Powerco to convey electricity, using the process set out in Section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.
2. That Council note that the land area affected by the easement for Powerco is described as Lot 2 DP 77988.

Clause 137-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

138-25

2025/26 Remuneration Budget Update

Memorandum, presented by Scott Mancer, Manager Finance and Cameron McKay, General Manager Corporate Services.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council increase the remuneration budget for 2025/26 by \$100,000 to allow for increasing KiwiSaver contribution rates from 1 April 2026.
2. That Council increase the following budgets to fund the Executive Director role for the implementation of the Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation, noting that this is cost neutral:
 - a. Remuneration Expenditure budget increase of \$250,000

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- b. Government Operating Grant revenue budget increase of \$250,000.
3. That Council note the remuneration budget for 2025/26 may need to increase if the work on the Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation impacts existing workloads.

Clause 138-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

139-25

Clearview Reserve - Request to reinstate 2025/26 capital budget

Memorandum, presented by Kathy Dever-Tod - Manager Parks and Reserves.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council revoke clause 80.13-25
 - b. Deferring Programme 1853 - Development of existing reserves (\$85K) to the 2026/2027 Annual Budget;
2. That Council agree to bring forward Programme 1853 - Development of existing reserves (\$85K) from the 2026/27 to the 2025/2026 financial year, in order to develop Clearview Reserve in 2025/26 in line with commitments made at the time of the related subdivision consents.

Clause 139-25 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 12.26pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.33pm.

Councillor Billy Meehan was not present when the meeting resumed at 1.33pm.

140-25

Review of the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Appointment of Directors Policy.

Memorandum, presented by Sarah Claridge, Governance Advisor.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

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1. That Council adopt the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Appointment of Directors Policy 2025 (Attachment 1), as recommended by the Electoral College.

Clause 140-25 above was carried 11 votes to 4, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Note:

Moved Karen Naylor, seconded Orphée Mickalad.

On an amendment that: That Council adopt the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Appointment of Directors Policy 2025 (Attachment 1), **subject to the deletion of section 3.8** as recommended by the Electoral College. The amendment was lost 5 votes to 10, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

141-25

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024 - Progress Report

Memorandum, presented by Natasha Hickmott - Acting Resource Recovery Manager.

Councillor Roly Fitzgerald left the meeting at 2:40pm

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council receive the memorandum titled 'Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024 - Progress Report' presented to Council on 3 September 2025.

Clause 141-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillor Roly Fitzgerald returned to the meeting at 2.43pm

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- 142-25 Civic and Cultural Precinct: 6 Month Update**
Memorandum, presented by Glenn Bunny, Manager Property.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Civic and Cultural Precinct: 6 Month Update', presented on 3 September 2025.

Clause 142-25 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

- 143-25 Annual Section 10A Dog Control Report 2024/25**
Memorandum, presented by Angela Lumby, Manager Environmental Protection.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Annual Section 10A Dog Control Report 2024/2025' presented on 3 September 2025.

Clause 143-25 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

- 144-25 Council Work Schedule**

Councillor Mark Arnott left the meeting at 3:17pm

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive its Work Schedule dated 3 September 2025.

Clause 144-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

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For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillor Mark Arnott returned to the meeting at 3:20pm

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

145-25 **Strategy & Finance Committee Part I Public - 20 August 2025**

Councillor Vaughan Dennison presented the recommendations below:

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt the recommendations from the Strategy & Finance Committee of 20 August 2025:

[Quarterly Performance and Financial Report – period ending 30 June 2025](#)

(clause 29-25)

Memorandum, presented by Scott Mancer, Manager – Finance and John Aitken, Manager - Project Management Office.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

4. That Council approve the adjustments to carry forward values per the carry forward report in [Attachment 5](#).
5. That Council approve the deferral of \$4,330,799 from 2025/26 to 2026/27 for Programme 1895 – Te Motu o Poutoa Development as noted in Attachment 5.

Clause 145-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

Councillor Rachel Bowen.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

146-25 **Recommendation to Exclude Public**

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

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That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
24.	Land purchases for the purpose of Te Utanganui, Central New Zealand Distribution Hub	s7(2)(i)NEGOTIATIONS: This information needs to be kept confidential to ensure that Council can negotiate effectively, especially in business dealings
25.	Environmental Health Contract Update	s7(2)(b)(ii)THIRD PARTY COMMERCIAL Disclosing the information could harm a company's commercial position and s7(2)(h)COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: This information needs to be kept confidential to allow Council to engage in commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage
26.	Purchase Opportunity - Mobile Stage	s7(2)(b)(ii)THIRD PARTY COMMERCIAL Disclosing the information could harm a company's commercial position and s7(2)(i)NEGOTIATIONS: This information needs to be kept confidential to ensure that Council can negotiate effectively, especially in business dealings
27.	Part IIB - Chief Executive Performance Review.	s7(2)(a)PRIVACY This information needs to be kept private to protect personal information that is confidential or sensitive. This includes people who are no longer alive

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be

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prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Clause 146-25 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillor Roly Fitzgerald left the meeting at 3.24pm

The public part of the meeting finished at 3.24pm

Confirmed 8 October 2025

Mayor